

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Helena Food Share and State of Montana Employees Partner Up

Helena – Helena Food Share and Montana state employees are working together on a ‘March Madness’ food drive.

Many state agencies are collecting food and money for the drive, which began on Monday, March 10 and will run until early morning, Wednesday, March 26. Beginning at 8:30 a.m. through 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, all food and money collected by the various state agencies will be delivered to Helena Food Share at their Lewis Street Pantry.

“I’m really proud of all state employees for participating in such a worthwhile cause,” said Terry Hutton, March Madness Food Drive state coordinator and Department of Revenue employee. “This is just another opportunity where state employees give back to the community, and it feels great!”

State employees outside of the Helena area have been invited to contact their local pantries and participate in a drive as well.

In February alone, 2,421 lives in our community were impacted by Helena Food Share’s services, and a total of 77,749 pounds of food was distributed.

“The reality is that anyone in our area could end up in a situation where they need to benefit from Helena Food Share’s programs and services,” said Dana Friede, Communications Director at Helena Food Share. “Unforeseen medical expenses, family emergencies, layoffs and more can all be enough to cause a person or a family to need a little assistance. That’s where we come in.”

Montana state employees have been involved with an annual drive to benefit Helena Food Share for the past six years. Every year their goal is to beat the previous years’ collection amount, so the goal for 2014 will be to collect over 8,600 pounds and/or dollars. Each year employees make it a fun event by holding bake sales, silent auctions and even some friendly competition between work groups, all the while knowing it is for a worthy cause.

“Employees of the State of Montana have made a huge impact on the lives of our clients through their generosity,” said Friede. “Over the years, they’ve donated a significant amount of food and money to Helena Food Share and become phenomenal community partners. They truly want to help us eliminate hunger in this community.”

While donations play a significant role in assisting our community, volunteers are critical as well. It takes on average, 100 volunteers monthly to keep the programs running that Helena Food Share sponsors.

For more information on Helena Food Share, please visit helenafoodshare.org, or call (406) 443-3663.

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